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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending August 1, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Poor week for Field Work: Three days were suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 59 percent adequate and 41 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included hay making, spreading manure, applying herbicides and pesticides, harvesting wheat and oats, picking fruit, repairing fences and machinery, and baling straw.

Crops: Corn silking was 80 percent complete, which was ahead of last year at 48 percent and the 5-year average of 65 percent. Corn in dough stage was at 26 percent. The average height of corn was 80 inches statewide, while last year's corn was 63 inches, and the 5-year average was 66 inches. Corn condition was rated 2 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 50 percent excellent. Winter Wheat has been 87 percent harvested, compared to 82 percent last year and 94 percent for the five year average. Oats were 51 percent ripe, compared with 42 percent last year and 62 percent for the five year average. Nineteen percent of oats have been harvested compared to the 5-year average was 36 percent. Oat condition was 2 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 52 percent good and 4 percent excellent. Soybean condition was 1 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. Potatoes were 7 percent harvested. Alfalfa second cutting was 71 percent complete, down from 73 percent last year and the 5-year average of 80 percent. Alfalfa third cutting was 22 percent complete, compared with 21 percent complete last year and the 5-year average of 32 percent. Alfalfa crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. The first cutting of timothy clover was 92 percent complete, up slightly from 91 percent last year but down from the 5-year average of 96. The second cutting of timothy clover was 24 percent complete, compared to last year at 20 percent and the 5-year average of 31 percent. The timothy clover stand was rated 1 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. The quality of hay made was 9 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 18 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

Peach harvest was 53 percent complete, compared to 24 percent last year and the 5-year average of 32. Peach condition was rated 1 percent poor, 6 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 58 percent excellent. Apples were 21 percent harvested, up from 9 percent last year and 5-year average of 10 percent. Apple condition was rated 5 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 52 percent good and 23 percent excellent.

Livestock: During the last week, the pasture condition in Pennsylvania was rated 3 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Animals were being rotated on different pastures throughout the state.

U.S. As of July 25, 2004: Corn Silking reached 72 percent complete, 11 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Nineteen percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, compared with 9 percent last year and 12 percent for the 5-year average. Soybeans: Blooming advanced to 74 percent complete, 10 points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of normal. Thirty-two percent of the crop was at or beyond the pod setting stage, 14 points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the average. The crop developed at or ahead of the normal pace in all areas, except the northern Corn Belt and northern Great Plains. Winter Wheat: Harvest was 83 percent complete, compared with 85 percent for last year and the 5-year average. Harvest was complete or nearly complete in all areas, except in Michigan, the northern Great Plains, and Pacific Northwest. Barley: Ninety-seven percent of the barley crop had headed, the same as last year but 2 points ahead of normal. Oats: Oat heading, at 98 percent complete, was the same as last year and the average. Growers had harvested 14 percent of their acreage, 3 points behind last year and 7 points behind normal. Heading was complete in most States, with only Minnesota, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania having unheaded fields. Harvest was behind normal in all States, trailing the normal pace by 18 points in Iowa and Pennsylvania.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 1, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 1, 2004					GDD Base 40F Total
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Northwest												
Erie	81	60	69	-3	2.37	4	17.41	3.08	65	1,617	149	2,671
Franklin	83	55	69	-2	4.48	5	26.31	9.33	73	1,566	169	2,640
Meadville	79	55	67	-3	2.94	4	21.35	5.07	69	1,476	200	2,520
Mercer	80	56	68	-3	3.53	5	19.54	3.48	60	1,304	-81	2,335
Springboro	81	54	67	-5	2.12	5	21.74	7.35	74	1,470	-1	2,503
Warren	78	54	68	-3	3.53	6	28.94	12.26	79	1,455	96	2,513
North Central												
Bradford Region	76	55	66	2	1.70	6	19.81	2.88	84	1,224	233	2,247
Emporium	81	50	68	2	3.72	6	22.88	5.61	70	1,549	441	2,621
Kane	74	43	61	-5	3.66	6	22.31	5.33	65	781	-196	1,745
Laporte	79	54	66	-5	5.67	5	26.19	10.35	76	1,335	-64	2,373
Lock Haven	86	56	69	-2	3.35	4	27.42	11.94	58	1,736	253	2,873
Port Allegany	80	47	66	0	3.91	6	20.52	4.33	68	1,306	204	2,330
Renovo	84	56	70	-2	4.03	5	22.54	7.06	63	1,699	216	2,806
Ridgway	80	52	67	0	2.80	6	24.53	7.26	59	1,303	195	2,332
Stevenson Dam	81	51	68	2	3.63	5	22.31	5.04	67	1,611	503	2,701
Towanda	84	55	69	-2	3.89	5	19.26	6.14	65	1,601	191	2,682
Wellsboro	77	49	65	-2	4.47	5	23.04	9.76	66	1,285	238	2,318
Williamsport	83	58	71	-3	4.27	5	21.36	5.85	73	1,844	198	2,991
Northeast												
Hawley	84	58	68	0	1.93	4	16.63	1.89	52	1,354	162	2,394
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	84	59	71	-2	1.69	5	16.33	1.81	58	1,700	136	2,816
Susquehanna	86	59	70	4	3.61	5	21.23	5.44	61	1,626	479	2,719
West Central												
Butler	83	54	69	-3	2.07	5	20.73	4.82	76	1,576	124	2,650
New Castle	85	56	70	-2	4.05	6	21.58	6.89	58	1,720	259	2,805
Slippery Rock	83	55	69	-1	3.07	6	21.91	6.36	76	1,648	333	2,743
Central												
Altoona/Blair	81	52	69	-4	2.15	5	18.33	3.92	66	1,702	135	2,793
DuBois	78	54	67	-3	2.31	6	23.68	7.70	79	1,470	116	2,532
Lewistown	85	57	71	-3	2.30	4	19.37	3.79	58	1,848	132	2,985
Middletown	87	62	74	-3	3.83	4	21.95	6.89	53	2,142	203	3,316
Prince Gallitzi	81	50	67	-2	2.60	4	22.58	4.18	61	1,491	250	2,552
Selinsgrove	85	57	71	-3	2.24	4	21.27	5.77	62	1,791	186	2,916
State College	80	57	68	-4	3.10	4	19.05	4.73	56	1,741	192	2,847
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	88	58	73	-2	2.83	4	18.88	3.12	53	1,916	140	3,072
Lehighton	83	59	71	-4	1.86	4	22.13	6.30	66	1,695	-14	2,823
Matamoras	85	57	70	-3	1.73	3	14.33	-2.16	51	1,474	-72	2,556
Tobyhanna	82	47	66	-2	1.97	5	22.84	5.62	74	1,427	383	2,488
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	55	71	-2	2.13	5	17.11	1.82	61	1,901	327	3,025
Derry	82	54	68	-4	4.82	4	26.71	10.99	71	1,669	198	2,771
Myersdale	80	50	65	-6	1.80	5	19.76	2.36	57	1,378	-55	2,428
Mount Pleasant	84	52	69	0	4.69	5	22.38	4.84	53	1,708	406	2,801
Pittsburgh Intl	84	56	71	-2	2.77	5	20.09	5.78	61	1,944	297	3,066
Rector	84	52	68	-1	3.34	6	26.16	8.62	74	1,715	413	2,820
Waynesburg	85	55	70	-2	2.15	5	19.88	4.27	62	1,758	238	2,857
South Central												
Biglerville	86	59	74	-2	2.66	4	24.74	10.94	62	1,934	31	3,078
Everett	83	50	68	-4	2.07	5	18.99	5.04	56	1,486	-53	2,542
Hanover	88	58	74	-2	2.79	3	22.42	8.62	53	2,029	126	3,177
Shippensburg	89	58	73	-2	3.61	4	23.65	9.66	55	2,065	174	3,210
South Mountain	82	54	70	-3	1.87	3	20.42	6.01	49	1,661	101	2,748
York	88	58	75	0	1.81	3	19.74	4.42	50	2,008	112	3,163
Southeast												
Green Lane	91	60	74	2	4.75	4	24.24	8.77	56	2,127	436	3,306
Hamburg	87	60	73	2	1.50	4	20.11	1.73	62	1,918	380	3,073
Hopewell	87	61	74	-4	2.98	6	23.98	7.84	71	1,960	-34	3,117
Lancaster	87	60	74	-1	1.53	3	22.83	6.80	58	2,005	226	3,170
Neshaminy Falls	90	64	75	2	2.56	2	23.26	5.20	51	2,097	330	3,268
New Holland	86	61	74	-2	5.33	5	24.20	8.17	60	1,996	217	3,147
Philadelphia	89	64	77	0	2.03	2	22.46	6.93	51	2,318	275	3,504
Philadelphia NE	89	63	76	-2	3.14	3	23.88	8.35	53	2,242	199	3,425
Reading	88	61	73	-1	3.33	2	22.83	5.88	53	2,029	284	3,198
Valley Forge Na	92	60	76	-2	3.31	4	22.20	6.06	50	2,012	18	3,171
Willow Grove	88	60	74	0	3.78	5	20.42	2.36	54	2,102	335	3,280

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker -- Wet week, 4.25 inches in my gauge. Little field work completed. Sunshine is needed to allow field work during the week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) -- Off and on rain showers have made it difficult to make any good quality dry hay. Corn and beans have finally taken off and have good color and height.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA) -- Typical summer weather this week. Showers were sporadic over the area but all areas got some beneficial rain. Corn is probably the best it has been since 2000 and yields are expected to average 140+ bushels per acre. Soybeans are setting pods but need some sunshine to get a full crop. Haymaking has been a challenge this summer, and this past week was no different. This is an excellent year for peaches and apples; size and quality are excellent. Extra care and good management will make the difference this year.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Lindel -- Another week with lots of rain; over 4.5 inches. Amazing how fast weeds can grow when they have plenty of moisture. Some pastures are just beautiful and others are full of noxious weeds. Local farmers are getting their choppers ready for an early silage harvest.

MERCER COUNTY, D Earl Smith (FSA) -- Tough week for hay making, wheat and oat harvesting due to heavy rains all week! Making dry hay almost impossible. Wheat yields being reported from 50 to 70 bu. Oats 70 to 90 bu.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) -- More rain. Around 5 inches for the week and

13 inches for July. Some oats were harvested on Monday before the rains came again. Corn and soybeans are looking great. Sweet corn is everywhere, however everything needs a chance to dry out. Southern parts of the county had severe flooding Sunday 8/1 over 5" in a couple hours.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA) -- Rain continues to create challenges for haymaking. Last wheat harvested this week was of feed quality. Corn and beans appear to be doing very well. Vegetable growers report various disease challenges as they continue to utilize aggressive spray schedules.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer -- Another week of heavy rains, watching the quality of the second cutting of hay deteriorate further, as well as the oats and the remaining wheat crop. On the positive side, corn and soybeans are looking good except in the poorly drained areas in that yellowing is showing up to a large extent. The soybean pod set so far is very good. Hopefully next week will be better and not worse.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) -- Most of the county had between 3 and 5 inches of rain this week making field work almost impossible on many farms. Oats that remain to be harvested are very grassy and lodged. Corn and soybeans generally look excellent with some poorly drained fields starting to show the adverse effects of the wet summer.

YORK COUNTY, Wayne Kurtz (FSA) -- Spring seeded crop is progressing well. Local heavy downpours may make July one of the wettest on record. Any type of harvest operation has producers scurrying to complete the task before the next rain

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 1, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	80	48	65
Corn, dough	26	3	20
Corn, dent	5	0	2
Corn average height, inches	80	63	66
Wheat, harvested	87	82	94
Oats, turning yellow	88	73	85
Oats, ripe	51	42	62
Oats, harvested	19	13	36
Potatoes, harvested	7	1	6
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	71	73	80
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	22	21	32
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	92	91	96
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	24	20	31
Peaches, harvested	53	24	32
Apples, harvested	21	9	10

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 1, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	2	12	36	50
Oats	2	8	34	52	4
Soybeans	0	1	12	58	29
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	4	23	50	22
Timothy clover stand	1	6	22	56	15
Quality of hay made	9	24	44	18	5
Pasture	3	4	19	52	22
Peaches	0	1	6	35	58
Apples	0	5	20	52	23

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